

Jennifer Vachon
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LD 210

Senator Rotundo, Representative Gattine, Senator Ingwersen, Representative Meyer, and distinguished members of the Appropriations and Financial Affairs Committee and Health and Human Services Committee, my name is Jennifer Vachon. I am an owner and live in Bangor.

I am opposed to the proposed \$15 million annual/\$30 million biennial cuts to the Child Care Wage Supplement Program. Receiving the Child Care Wage Supplement Program has changed our staff's world drastically. Before the supplement was implemented, I was hearing stresses from my staff stating that they don't have the money to fix their car so they will have to quit or they do not have the money for rent. The wage supplement has given the ability to for our team to have an increase of about \$1.00/hr to their wages. Since the child care wage supplement program was implemented our program has experienced severe financial stresses including the increase of utilities, insurance and rent. I was not able to give wage increases to our team. Our program is very fragile when looking at our finances and the child care wage supplement program provided the financial support our program needed and still needs. I fear that with the proposed cut of \$15 million we will be in a place of needing to close due to not being able to pay our team more. I sincerely hope that hearing the stresses child care programs are currently going through will be decided that this proposal will cause many more problems throughout our state.